

and fruits that must result from the faithful performance of these duties.

May the peace of God, which surpasseth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Phillipians iv. : 7).

Given from St. Michael's Palace, Toronto, under our hand and seal, and the signature of our Secretary, on this the 26th of February, (Feast of St. Mathias, Apostle,) A D., 1892.

JOHN WALSH,
Archbishop of Toronto.

By order of His Grace.

JAMES WALSH, Secretary,

The Irish Members.

Writing to the *New York Times* of the probable make up of certain portions of the Home Rule bill, Harold Frederick touches on the question of "What is to be done with the Irish members?" He shows how the subject was treated in the home rule struggle of 1886. How it had been decided that the Irish members should vote only at Dublin. Then when everyone seemed to be happy, Chamberlain, Hartington, Stead and others, discovered in the question a chance to make a fight. Everything else about the measure was all right, but "Britons would never, never, etc., permit their dearly beloved brethren to depart from Westminster. On this came the famous split in the party and the ultimate loss of home rule. The writer then continues as follows:

First of all, there was this bitter outcry, to which I have alluded, that to take the Irish members away from Westminster was to destroy the imperial character of Parliament. "Very well, then," Mr. Gladstone finally said, in effect, "since you feel so deeply on the subject, let them remain."

Then comes an equally embittered wail that it is a monstrous thing to propose that the Irish should settle all their own affairs at home in a Parliament by themselves, and then come over to London to vote on and decide the affairs of England, Scotland and Wales. Such injustice cannot be thought of for a moment. "Very well," Mr. Gladstone is baited into saying, in effect. "Perhaps, it could be arranged by dividing up the functions of Parliament and allowing the Irish members to vote only on imperial matters."

Now leap into the fray another band of antagonists, who shout that this is all nonsense; that it would be impossible to make any such distinction, that the power to turn out a ministry on imperial issues, when that ministry had a secure majority on all non-imperial issues, would be a ridiculously dangerous weapon to give to the Irish. "Very well," says Mr. Gladstone, "let us return, then, to the original plan of leaving them out altogether."

Here a new disturbance is kicked up by another section—this time in the interest of the Liberal party itself. It is pointed out that if the Irish party is subtracted, it is hardly possible for the Liberals of Wales, Scotland and two-sevenths of the English constituencies to secure a majority in Parliament against the solid Toryism of the rest of England. The fight would always be close, generally hopeless. Thus would end all chance of realizing the progressive land, church and tax reforms that Radicals now behold in sanguine dreams. No, the Irish must remain to help their British brethren secure these blessings, after their own desires have been gratified. "Very well," groans Mr. Gladstone, "let them stay, then."

So the interminable wrangle has gone on, and would continue for a generation if there were not the power somewhere to put a forcible stop to it. I have mentioned four of the principal grounds of argument—grounds, it may be said in passing, which are indiscriminately occupied in turn by the same people, triumphantly proving to-day what yesterday they demonstrated to be impossible—but there are twenty others to be used if needs be. To this

discussion the Irish have practically nothing. That of 1886—one tempered by a notion they would be better at Westminster. Per is less distinct than ago. It was based on the historic fact that to make a point of the Irish members for Mr. Parnell led more advanced and lists against Butt attacked, among other this particular one. Mr. Parnell had come to attach no importance to this fact, and now John Redmond's published *New Review* article shows even less interest in the thing. Both Irish factions practically say that it is a question for the English to settle on their own responsibility and in their own way.

It is understood that Mr. Gladstone intends to settle it—for the present—by leaving it alone. The best established reports about his home rule intentions are still guesswork, but there are reasons for believing that his plan is to say nothing about representation in the bill itself, and to burke discussion the subject by proposing in his speech that the matter stand over *in statu quo* for a year or so, until they see how the new relations between the kingdoms work, and have gained further insight into the whole great question of parliamentary readjustment. It is too much to hope that this device will shelve debate on the subject; many days of speeches and confused and violent misunderstanding will still be consecrated to it. But it seems likely that this is a course on which, after the talk is exhausted, it will be possible for the Liberal majority to unite with practical unanimity.

Persecution in Russia.

Fresh persecutions of the Catholics are announced from Russia. It is stated that an order has been issued that all the non-Orthodox railway employees in the Kingdom of Poland—and these, with the exception of a very few Evangelicals, are all Catholics—must, before January 1st, pass over to the Russian Church, or else be deprived of their situations. At Huslay, in Podlachia, the Government has closed the Catholic church. This is nothing new in itself; but hitherto such acts have taken place only when at least a small "Orthodox" community has already existed in the place. Under these circumstances the Catholic church was simply confiscated, and such has been the fate of the majority of the churches in Podlachia. But at Huslay there is not a single "Orthodox," nor even a Uniate Greek; the inhabitants are exclusively Latin Catholics. What the "Orthodox" Russians will do with the Church is a mystery. The Polish papers say that in these regions Catholic parishes often occupy from fifteen to twenty square miles, in districts where almost the entire population is Catholic.

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The death is announced (on February 1st,) of Sir Augustine Fitzgerald, at his residence, Carrigoran, Newmarket-on-Fergus, after an attack of paralysis with which he was seized in Dublin, about six weeks ago, while on his way with Lady Fitzgerald to Riviera. Sir Augustine, who was born in 1809, was twice married, but leaves no issue. Some years ago a son and daughter of his were drowned.



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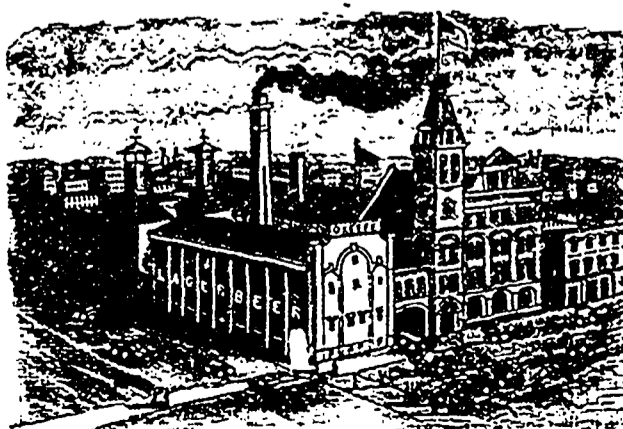
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